

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /137 W

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R 031325 AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 127

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: POPE PAUL SPEAKS ON MOZAMBIQUE MASSACRES

REF: ROME 6029, 6753, 6809

1. DURING HIS JULY 22 NOONTIME ADDRESS TO CROWDS AT CASTEL GANDOLFO, POPE PAUL MADE FOLLOWING GUARDED REFERENCE TO MOZAMBIQUE:

"LET US BE JUST. NONE CAN ACCUSE MISSIONARIES OR THE CHURCH OF SHEDDING BLOOD OR SUPPORTING OPPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE TO WHOM THEY BRING THE GOSPEL. NO ONE CAN ACCUSE THEM OF USING THE ARROGANCE OF OTHERS EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR RELIGIOUS POSITIONS. NOR CAN THEY BE ACCUSED OF REMAINING SILENT WHEN CRIMES WERE COMMITTED AGAINST DEFENSELESS PEOPLE. TO THE CONTRARY, THEY SHARE THE PAINS AND SUFFERINGS OF THESE PEOPLE."

2. RELIABLE VATICAN SOURCE HAS INFORMED US THAT THERE SHOULD
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BE NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT THIS STATEMENT REFERRED EXCLUSIVELY TO VARIOUS ATROCITIES WHICH PORUGUESE ARMY HAS COMMITTED IN MOZAMBIQUE. ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF VICTIMS MENTIONED BY FATHERHASTINGS AND OTHER MISSIONARIES WHO HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT MASSACRES MAY BE INFLATED, SOURCE OBSERVED, VATICAN FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT SUCH ATROCITIES HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AGAINST A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF DEFENSELESS AFRICANS. VATICAN BASES ITS CONVICTION ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM MISSIONARIES ON THE SCENE AND LOCAL BISHOPS. BASED ON LATEST PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE, VATICAN ALSO BELIEVES WHITE AS WELL AS BLACK PORTUGUESE TROOPS INVOLVED IN MASSACRES. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, GOP HAS EITHER NOT REPLIED AT ALL OR HAS GIVEN ONLY STANDARD PROPAGANDA ANSWERS TO QUESIONS CONCERNING MASSACRES FROM PAPAL NUNCIO IN LISBON AND FROM VATICAN SECRETARIAT OF STATE.

3. SOURCE SAID THAT IN REFLECTING AN OVERALL PROBLEM OF PORTUGAL'S RELATIONS WITH ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES, VATICAN IS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND LOGIC OF SMALL AND POOR COUNTRY LIKE PORTUGAL SQUANDERING ITS LIMITED MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IN ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION IN AFRICA WHEN BOTH HISTORY AND LOCAL AFRICAN SENTIMENT WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THEIR EVENTUAL FAILURE. HE MUSED THAT IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE WHILE THERE STILL TIME, FOR PORTUGAL TO TAKE CUE FROM BRITISH AND TRY TO FORM A COMMONWEALTH IN WHICH AT LEAST ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES COULD BE MAINTAINED. AT SAME TIME, PORTUGAL COULD MAKE MORE SERIOUS EFFORT TO INDUSTRIALIZE. SOURCE THREW OUT SUGGESTION THAT NATO POWERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE PORTUGAL ALONG THESE LINES, ESPECIALLY IF THEY WERE TO OFFER AS AN INDUCEMENT A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RAPID INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF PORTUGAL. VOLPE

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